



**INSTRUCTIONAL MEMORANDUMS  
To County Engineers**

To	County Engineers	Date	June 2002
From	Office of Local Systems	IM No.	2.23
Subject	Signing for Low Cost Stream Crossings		

Low cost stream crossings appear to be an economical and viable consideration in certain instances for replacing structurally deficient or functionally obsolete county bridges.

There are two Iowa State University research studies, “Low Water Stream Crossings: Design and Construction Recommendations” (Section 5), December 2001, by Lohnes, R.A., et al, and “Liability and Traffic Control Considerations for Low Water Stream Crossings” 1981, by Carstens, R.L., et al. Both research studies recommended specific signing in advance of each crossing of this category.

Recommended signing consists of three (3) signs that include two (2) warning signs, FLOOD AREA AHEAD and IMPASSABLE DURING HIGH WATER, and one (1) regulatory sign, DO NOT ENTER WHEN FLOODED.

NOTE: The regulatory signs will require an appropriate resolution by the County Board of Supervisors. [Attached](#) to this I.M. is a sample resolution that may be used for this purpose.

The use of either a supplemental distance advisory plate or an advisory speed plate, or both, is optional for circumstances where these may be needed.

The sign size, message, and recommended placement location are shown on [page 2](#) of this I.M. For more detailed guidance, refer to Section [C10.1](#) of the [Iowa Traffic Control Devices and Pavement Markings: A Guide for Cities and Counties](#), published by the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE).



30" X 30"  
BLACK LEGEND  
YELLOW BACKGROUND  
750 FEET



30" X 30"  
BLACK LEGEND  
YELLOW BACKGROUND  
450 FEET



24" X 30"  
BLACK LEGEND  
WHITE BACKGROUND  
200 FEET

Signs recommended for installation at low cost stream crossing.